

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 965

To establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021” or the “YALI Act of 2021”.

**6 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7       It is the sense of Congress that—

1                             (1) the Young African Leaders Initiative,  
2                             launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in  
3                             the next generation of African leaders;

4                             (2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance  
5                             and it is vital for the United States to support  
6                             strong and enduring partnerships with the next gen-  
7                             eration of African leaders; and

8                             (3) the United States Government should  
9                             prioritize investments to build the capacity of young  
10                            emerging African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-  
11                            cluding through efforts to enhance leadership skills,  
12                            encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen public ad-  
13                            ministration and the role of civil society, and connect  
14                            young African leaders continentaly and globally  
15                            across the private, civic, and public sectors.

16 **SEC. 3. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

17                             (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the De-  
18                             partment of State the Young African Leaders Initiative  
19                             (“YALI”) program.

20                             (b) DUTIES.—The YALI program shall seek to build  
21                             to capacity of young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa  
22                             in the areas of civic engagement, entrepreneurship and  
23                             business development, including through efforts to—

24                                 (1) support young African leaders by offering  
25                             professional development and a global network to

1 share expertise, including in the areas of civic lead-  
2 ership, elections, human rights, good governance and  
3 public management;

4 (2) provide increased economic and technical  
5 assistance to young African leaders and entre-  
6 preneurs, to strengthen ties between United States  
7 and African businesses.

8 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—The YALI program shall award  
9 Mandela Washington Fellowships to young leaders who  
10 have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship,  
11 innovation, public service, and leadership, and who have  
12 had a positive impact in their communities, organizations,  
13 or institutions.

14 (d) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.—The YALI  
15 program shall offer training to young leaders who have  
16 demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, in-  
17 novation, public service and leadership, and who have had  
18 a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or  
19 institutions, by seeking to establish regional leadership  
20 centers in sub-Saharan Africa.

21 (e) ACTIVITIES.—

22 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The  
23 Secretary of State, in coordination with the Admin-  
24 istrator for the United States Agency for Inter-  
25 national Development, shall oversee all United

1 States-based activities carried out under the YALI  
2 program, including the following:

3 (A) The participation of Mandela Wash-  
4 ington Fellows in a six-week Leadership Insti-  
5 tute at a United States university or college in  
6 business, civic engagement, or public manage-  
7 ment, including academic sessions, site visits,  
8 professional networking opportunities, leader-  
9 ship training, community service, and organized  
10 cultural activities.

11 (B) The participation by Mandela Wash-  
12 ington Fellows in an annual Mandela Wash-  
13 ington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fel-  
14 lows the opportunity to meet with United States  
15 leaders from the private, public, and non-profit  
16 sectors.

17 (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The United  
18 States should continue to support overseas initiatives  
19 of the program, including the following:

20 (A) Quality leadership training, profes-  
21 sional development, and networking opportuni-  
22 ties for Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni  
23 upon their return to their home countries, in-  
24 cluding online courses.

(B) Training for young African leaders at regional leadership centers established in accordance with subsection (d), and through online courses offered by such centers.

5 (C) Opportunities for networking with—

(i) alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship;

1 and agency external partners managing and imple-  
2 menting the YALI program—

3 (A) shall promote United States policy  
4 goals in Africa by providing tools and resources  
5 to help young African leaders develop important  
6 skills and connections, including through online  
7 campaigns and public diplomacy initiatives;

8 (B) shall establish a system for moni-  
9 toring, evaluating, and improving the YALI  
10 program; and

11 (C) may accept financial contributions  
12 from foundations, corporations, private donors,  
13 program partners, and implementing agency ex-  
14 ternal partners intended to foster the goals of  
15 the YALI program.

16 (f) REPORTS.—

17 (1) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of State, in co-  
18 ordination with the Administrator of USAID, shall  
19 submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
20 a strategy for implementing the YALI program, in-  
21 cluding the following:

22 (A) YALI program goals, targets, and  
23 planned outcomes for each year and, separately,  
24 for the YALI program generally during the du-  
25 ration of its implementation.

1 (B) A YALI program monitoring and eval-  
2 uation plan, including metrics for measuring  
3 YALI program progress and determining  
4 whether YALI program goals, targets, and  
5 planned outcomes of growing the United States  
6 and Africa trade relationship, strengthening  
7 civil society and public administration, and sup-  
8 porting innovation and investment in the next  
9 generation of African leaders have been met an-  
10 nually and, separately, for the YALI program  
11 generally, during the duration of its implemen-  
12 tation.

20 (A) YALI program progress and an assess-  
21 ment of the metrics, goals, targets, and out-  
22 comes referred to in paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
23 ing information relating to YALI program im-  
24 plementation and outcome activities during the  
25 year covered by each report; and

(B) recommendations for improvements or amendments to the YALI program and strategy, if any, that would improve their effectiveness during subsequent years of YALI program implementation.

16 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of  
the House of Representatives;

24 (C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
25 the Senate; and

8 (A) Local or multinational corporations.

9 (B) Nongovernmental organizations.

## 10 (C) Universities.

11 (D) Regional institutions.

